

Remarks:

These remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated May 16, 2005. Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-31 remained pending in the application.

Pursuant to the final Office action, claims 11 and 12 have been allowed. However, claims 1-10 and 13-31 stand rejected. Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 13-25 and 27-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Richardson et al. (US 5,748,483); claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Richardson et al. in view of Enomoto et al. (Pub. No. US 2003/0184798 A1); and claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Richardson et al. in view of Farrell et al. (US 5,179,410).

Although applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a), in the interest of furthering prosecution on the merits, applicants have cancelled claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 14-31, without prejudice.

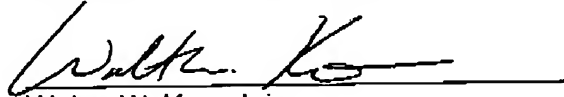
As to the remaining claims, applicants again note that claims 11 and 12 have been allowed. Claims 4, 8 and 13 are amended to depend from allowed claim 11, and thus are understood to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11. Claim 5 depends from claim 4, and thus also is understood to be allowable. New claims 32-35 are similar to claims 4, 5, 8 and 13, but depend from allowed claim 12, and thus are understood to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 12.

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Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

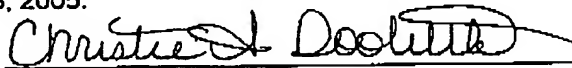
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner W. Hamdan, Group Art Unit 2854, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on July 18, 2005.



Christie A. Doolittle

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